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Adult schools.

* 2709 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state why the Government are not at present running any adult schools in the State?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Even previously, the Government were not running adult schools themselves. While all adult schools were admitted to Government aid previously, now grants are confined to the adult schools in areas covered by the Community Projects and the National Extension Service.

Improvement of cattle wealth

* 2710 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount spent for improvement of cattle wealth in the State in the year 1954–55;

(*b*) the establishment charges incurred by the Government during that year; and

(*c*) the terms of appointment of the Milk Commissioner for improving cattle wealth?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) The portion of the expenditure incurred by the Animal Husbandry Department on improvement of cattle is estimated at about Rs. 28 lakhs.

(*b*) The establishment charges come to Rs. 8,28,848.

(*c*) The Government have not appointed a Milk Commissioner. They have sanctioned the creation of the post of a Special Officer for Milk in the grade of a District Veterinary Officer to correlate the work relating to the formation of Milk Colonies and to tackle the milk supply question in the Madras City.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: Would Government consider expenditure upon cattle welfare by also making a grant to Gosadans in the State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The Government have also been giving in a way such help.

Medical supply to Local Board Medical Institutions

* 2711 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Malabar District Board and some other Local Board Institutions requested the Government to allow them to purchase their medical supplies from sources other than the Medical Stores Depot, Madras; and

(*b*) if so, whether the request was granted?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: (*a*) The Malabar District Board only applied to the Government for permission to purchase medical supplies from sources other than the Medical Stores Depot.

(*b*) No, Sir.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Many local board dispensaries under district boards are without proper medicines on account of this system of purchase under which very often replies to their demand are received as "hereafter medicines"? Therefore, will the Government see that in such cases, as in the headquarters hospitals, these hospitals are also allowed to purchase medicines at least to a limited extent so that the patients may have their medicines in proper time?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The Government have made inquiries into this matter and they understand from the Assistant Inspector-General that indents are complied with to a maximum of 80 per cent and for the remaining items that could not be supplied, intimation is being sent to the indentors direct within two months' time from the date of the indent.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN: In many of the rural dispensaries, even though the amount sanctioned is very meagre, it takes six months to one year for the medicines to reach them. So, will the Government be pleased to give instructions or to grant permission to the local board dispensary doctors or district boards to purchase medicines locally? Otherwise, the people will suffer. So, will the Government take a definite stand on this matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The hon. Member is probably referring to what was happening some time ago. But now the indents are attended to better. 80 per cent of the indents are complied with. Where the medicines are not available in the Medical Stores, it is open to the authorities concerned to buy them in the local market.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN: May I know whether the Madras Medical Stores Depot is supplying medicines to district boards at a concessional rate? If not, why are the Government insisting that all the district boards shall buy medicines from the Madras Medical Stores Depot? Because they are forced to buy medicines from the Madras Medical Stores Depot, the conveyance charges or transport charges make the medicines more costly and this also causes great inconvenience to the public. In view of all these things, will the Government relax their present directive in the matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: No concessional rates are charged. But the rates charged by the Medical Stores may sometimes be higher or cheaper than the prevailing market rates. It is always safer to buy the medical requisites from the Medical Stores because they can be depended upon to be pure and genuine. Sub-standard drugs and spurious drugs are so widely sold now. It is not safe always to buy them in markets.

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SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : While the last point can be obviated by marking out the companies from which the local boards or the local board hospitals could buy their medicines, may I know whether this year any special instructions have been issued to expedite sanctions because I know last year there was a scandalous instance wherein for six months or more there was no medicine except acqua which could also be treated as medicine, in a particular hospital, namely, the Kuthuparamba hospital and people had to subscribe for purchase of medicine and the doctor was just giving it so that he may not keep himself idle? So, may I know whether the Government will cut out red tape and allow papers to be disposed of at the district level instead of their having to travel all the way to Madras and slumber in the particular depot, the depot of the Government?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : About the particular instance mentioned by the hon. Member, he may kindly write to me; I shall have inquiries made. About the lack of medicines in the dispensaries under district boards, it may be due to their deficit budgets rather than merely to the delay caused by the Medical Stores in supplying the medicines.

SRIMATHI (DR.) T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN : எம்.எஸ்.டி. ஸ்டோர்ஸ்களில் மலிவாக கொடுக்கப்படுகிற தென்பது உண்மைதான். இருந்தாலும் நாங்கள் இன்ன மருந்துகள் வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டு எழுதினால் எங்களுக்கு மருந்துகள் வந்து சேர்வதற்குள் மிகுந்த காலம் ஆகிவிடுகின்றது. சில சமயங்களில் டாக்டர்களாகிய நாங்கள் வெட்கப்படக்கூட வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஏனென்றால் மிகச் சாதாரணமான மருந்துகள்கூட சில சமயங்களில் கைவசம் இல்லாமல் போய்விடுகின்றது. ஆகவே மிகக் குறைந்த காலத்தில் மருந்துகள் சப்ளை செய்யும்படியாக, சப்ளையை துரிதமாக செய்யும்படியாக அதாவது இரண்டு மாதங்களுக்குள்ளாவது அனுப்பிவைக்கும்படியாக சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்ய தக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா ?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : This matter has been taken up by the Central Council of Health. The Government of India in the Ministry of Health have asked the Medical Stores to be vigilant in this matter and to supply the indents as early as possible.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Have the State Government any control over these Medical Stores Depots?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : It is run by the Government of India.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR : The Medical Stores Depot knows very well the requirements of all the local board dispensaries in the State. As such, why should it not supply all their requirements every year instead of withholding about 20 per cent of the indents? If it withholds this 20 per cent, it means that it never supplies this 20 per cent at all. So, will the Government issue instructions to the Medical Stores to supply all the medicines every year in time?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : 80 per cent which I referred to relates to a period some time back. There is some improvement now.

9-40 a.m. SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI : Sir, it is very easy to give instructions like the one which the Hon. Minister stated just now asking the Department to be very vigilant. But, what precise steps has the Hon. Minister suggested to remove all these defects?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The question has been taken up with the Government of India in the Central Ministry of Health.

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : In spite of suitable instructions from the Central Government, the Medical Stores are not supplying the medicines that are required by the Local Board institutions as early as possible. In South Arcot district, all local fund dispensaries are suffering for want of medicines. Will the Government issue suitable instructions to the authorities concerned to supply them immediately?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The hon. Member is making a statement without definite information, Sir.

SRI T. ANANTA PAI : Sir, if the Medical Stores fail to supply the requirements within a specified date, could not the Government give necessary authority to the local boards to place indents locally and get their supplies?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I have already stated that, Sir, in my answer to the question that it is open for the local bodies or the Government hospitals to get their supplies by calling for quotations from reputable firms and getting the medical requisites when the Medical Stores are not able to supply the things wanted.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Sir, with regard to the defects in the supply of drugs, medicines, etc., the Madras Government had appointed an *ad hoc* Committee to go into the question. May I know whether the Government have accepted any of the recommendations of the so-called *ad hoc* Committee appointed for the purpose and if so, what are the recommendations implemented?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I would like to know which Committee the hon. Member is referring to and when it was appointed.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : I refer to the *ad hoc* Committee appointed by the Government in 1949.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I have no information about this Committee, Sir.

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SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Of course, there are so many Committees and their recommendations are not seriously taken notice of. So, there is absolutely no surprise in the Hon. Minister not knowing the Committee, its recommendations and all that. But, in view of the fact that there is universal complaint from all the districts, from not merely local board hospitals but also from Government hospitals as the hon. Member there pointed out and as I also know that even vital medicines required for tuberculosis are not sometimes supplied in time to the Tellicherry Hospital of whose Advisory Committee I happen to be a Member, would the Government create some kind of apparatus to by-pass this very sluggish Stores?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : A same sort of question is asked in another form. I have already replied that whenever indents cannot be complied with by the Medical Stores, it is open either to the Government Hospital or the local fund dispensary to get medicines locally by getting quotations from reputable firms.

(Questions Nos. 2712, 2713 and 2714 taken up together.)

Land reforms

* 2712 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government are awaiting any instructions from the Central Government to introduce Land Reforms in this State. ?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The Government of India have been addressed to give their considered views on the constitutional and legal issues involved in introducing comprehensive land reforms in this State. Their reply is awaited.

* 2713 Q.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any directive from the Planning Commission or the Government of India regarding the introduction of Land Reforms in this State;

(*b*) whether this Government have come to any decision regarding Land Reforms to be introduced in this State ; and

(*c*) if the answers are in the affirmative, what their proposals are?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Madras Cultivating Tenants Protection Act, 1955, has recently been passed into law. The Government will be introducing shortly a Bill on " Fair Rents ". As regards other aspects of Land Reforms the Government of India have been addressed to give their considered views on the constitutional and legal issues involved. Their reply is awaited.